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B1, 1.5(D)

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ACTION AF-01

INFO	LOG-00	CIAE-00	C-01	OASY-00	DOEE-00	DS-00	EUR-01
	HA-09	H-01	TEDE-00	INR-00	IO-16	LAB-01	L-01
	ADS-00	NSAE-00	NSCE-00	OIC-02	OMB-01	PA-01	PM-01
	PRS-01	P-01	SCT-03	SNP-00	SP-00	SS-00	TRSE-00
	T-00	USIE-00	RPE-01	PMB-00	/042W		
				-----2E61A5 101542Z /38			

P 101531Z MAR 94
FM AMEMBASSY KIGALI
TO AMEMBASSY KAMPALA PRIORITY
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 5911
USDAO YAOUNDE
USDAO PARIS
DIA WASHDC//CH-4//
SECDEF WASHDC
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE//ECJ4-SAA//
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA

C O N F I D E N T I A L KIGALI 01039

DEPT FOR AF/C, AF/RA, IO/PHO

BUJUMBURA FOR RSO

E.O. 12356:OADR:DECL.
TAGS: MOPS, PREL, PINS, RW
SUBJECT: IDLE THREATS OR REAL PREPARATIONS FOR CONFLICT
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1. CONFIDENTIAL - ENTIRE TEXT.

2. NORMAN RIDPATH, GENERAL MANAGER OF THE AMERICAN TEA
PROCESSING FACTORY LOCATED IN THE DMZ, TOLD ECONOFF THAT
SOME OF HIS STAFF WHO HAVE FAMILY MEMBERS IN THE RPF HAVE
RECEIVED LETTERS FROM THEM WITH INSTRUCTIONS TO MOVE FROM
THEIR HOMES IN TUMBA BECAUSE THE RPF WILL LAUNCH AN ATTACK
FROM THERE. EARLIER IN FEBRUARY,

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
REVIEW AUTHORITY: JOHN L. MILLS
DATE/CASE ID: 20 NOV 2002 200003723

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HAD TOLD UN MILITARY OBSERVERS THAT THE RPF WAS UNLOADING HEAVY ARTILLERY IN THE AREA. UN OBSERVERS INVESTIGATED THE ALLEGATION AND FOUND NO EVIDENCE TO SUPPORT THE CHARGE.

3. INTERNATIONAL RELIEF ORGANIZATIONS HAVE REPORTED NUMEROUS SIGHTINGS OF BOTH RPF AND GOR MILITARY PATROLS IN THE DMZ. UNAMIR OFFICIALS HAVE ALSO REPORTED THAT BOTH SIDES ARE ON HIGH ALERT AND HAVE BEGUN FORTIFYING THEIR DEFENSIVE POSITIONS ON EITHER SIDE OF THE DMZ. UNAMIR ALSO TOLD DIPLOMATS THAT THE GOR HAS FORTIFIED ITS POSITIONS AT MILITARY BASES IN AND AROUND KIGALI.

4. IN DRIVING UP TO RUHENGERI AND THROUGH KINIGI (JUST ON THE EDGE OF THE GOR FRONT LINE AND THE DMZ) ECONOFF HAS NOTED THE INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF SANDBAGGED FORTIFIED POSITIONS ALONG THE MAIN ROAD AND NEW BUNKERS DUG IN IN KINIGI. THE SANDHAGGED POSITIONS HAVE NOT BEEN IN PLACE SINCE SEPTEMBER 1993 AND NO BUNKERS WERE PREVIOUSLY LOCATED NEAR KINIGI.

5. ALTHOUGH GOR POSITIONS APPEAR TO HAVE BEEN FORTIFIED ON THE WESTERN FLANK OF THE GOR'S FRONT LINE, NO SUBSTANTIAL

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GOR MILITARY PRESENCE IS SEEN ON THE CENTRAL OR EASTERN FLANKS, WITH THE EXCEPTION OF THE MAIN ROAD THROUGH BYUMBA TO MULINDI. THE GOR FRONT LINE FACING TUMBA HAS NOT BEEN FORTIFIED.

6. COMMENT. BEFORE THE FEBRUARY OFFENSIVE OF 1993, THE RPF SPREAD RUMORS THAT THEY WERE GOING TO ATTACK. THESE RUMORS WERE SUPPOSEDLY PART OF THE RPF STRATEGY TO INTIMIDATE GOR TROOPS. SIMILAR RUMORS ARE SPREADING AGAIN. IT IS UNCLEAR WHETHER CURRENT RUMORS ARE JUST THREATS TO FORCE THE PRESIDENT AND HIS SUPPORTERS TO ACCEPT THE RPF-LANDO/PL FACTION'S TERMS OR IF THE BITS OF INFORMATION ABOUT MILITARY MOVEMENTS ON BOTH SIDES ARE REAL PREPARATIONS FOR CONFLICT. END COMMENT. RAWSON

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